

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05 /095 W
-----008989 031005Z /17

P R 030926Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8785
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUSAKA 2368

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV RH US UK
SUBJ: RHODESIA: NKOMO CRITICIZES WEST

1. IN AN EMOTIONAL, ONE HOUR SPEECH (DESCRIBED BY ONE
OBSERVER AS A "HARANGUE") PATRITOIC FRONT CO-LEADER JOSHUA
NKOMO BITTERLY ATTACKED THE WESTERN COUNTRIES FOR THEIR
REFUSAL TO SUPPORT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. HIS BLAST CAME DURING
JULY 1 BURIAL CEREMONIES IN LUSAKA FOR SLAIN ZIPRA COMMANDER
ALFRED MANGENA. IN ADDITION TO REPEATING HIS OFT-VOICED
CRITICISM OF THE WEST FOR ITS ALLEGED SUPPORT OF THE
SMITH REGIME, HIS SPEECH PROMISED THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE
FOR "CRIMES" IN ZIMBABWE WOULD BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL AFTER
INDEPENDENCE UNDER A PATRITOIC FRONT GOVERNMENT. NKOMO
NOTED THE ABSENCE OF WESTERN CONDOLENCES AND WESTERN
REPRESENTATION AT THE FUNERAL AND CHARACTERIZED THIS AS
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"TYPICAL OF WESTERN CONCERN FOR THE REAL SUFFERING IN
ZIMBABWE." ACCORDING TO ONE OBSERVER, THE MOOD OF THE
GATHERING WAS "DISTINCTLY ANTI-WHITE" AND NKOMO, WHO
LAPSED OFTEN INTO NDEBELE, WAS UNUSUALLY EMOTIONAL. HE WAS
THE ONLY ORATOR.

2. THE FUNERAL WAS ATTENDED BY SOME 2,000 PERSONS INCLUDING

SOME TWO HUNDRED UNIFORMED BUT UNARMED ZIPRA FIGHTERS WHO
ACTED AS A GUARD OF HONOR AND PALL BEARERS. THE RUSSIAN,
CUBAN, EAST GERMAN AND CZECH AMBASSADORS ALSO ATTENDED.
THE PRC AMBASSADOR WAS NOT PRESENT. THERE WERE NO NOTICEABLE
ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF
MP AARON MILNER, A CLOSE FRIEND OF NKOMO'S.

3. COMMENT: WHILE MUGABE HAS PUBLICLY STATED THAT THOSE
GUILTY OF CRIMES WILL BE PUNISHED IN AN INDEPENDENT
ZIMBABWE, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE CAN RECALL NKOMO PLAYING
THIS THEME. HIS COMMENT ON PUNISHING THE GUILTY WAS
ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED BY HIS AUDIENCE.
CLINGERMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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